

KNOXVILLE, TENN.  
JOURNAL

M - 66,978  
DEC 13 1972

## A Man's Word

Monday the U. S. Supreme Court refused by a 6-3 vote to hear an appeal from a federal court injunction prohibiting a former official of the Central Intelligence Agency from publishing books or articles containing classified material.

✓ The appellant is Victor E. Marchetti of Vienna, Va., formerly executive assistant to the deputy director of the CIA. After resigning in 1969 he submitted an article to a magazine which, the government contended, would disclose classified information about intelligence sources, methods and operations. He also has attempted to publish a novel about the CIA.

Marchetti was supported in his appeal by the American Civil Liberties Union, the Authors League of America and the Association of American Publishers. The appeal said the injunction would lead to "a systematic scheme of censor-

ship which will surely result in the denial of the fundamental right of the American people to be supplied with information about the conduct of their government."

Defending the ruling of lower courts, the government said it is in accord with the Supreme Court's "consistent recognition of the need for secrecy in the sensitive areas of foreign affairs and national security."

Apparently little attention was paid to the fact that Marchetti, ✓ when he joined the CIA in 1956, signed an agreement never to divulge classified information without the director's approval. One would have to assume that he and the American Civil Liberties Union think his right to publish, whatever the consequences for his country, is more important than keeping his word.